

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 08279 121731Z

45

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4485

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 8279

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, MILI, CG

SUBJ: CONSCRIPTION INTO ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES

REF: (A) KINSHASA A-129 (B) KINSHASA A-131 (C) KINSHASA 8069

1. SUMMARY. MANY SOURCES, NONE PUBLIC, HAVE REPORTED THAT THROUGH-
OUT KINSHASA AND IN OTHER PARTS OF BAS ZAIRE, YOUNG MEN ARE BEING
IMPRESSED INTO THE ARMED FORCES (FAZ); AND OFFICIAL ZAIRIAN NEWS-
PAPERS TODAY ANNOUNCED MANDATORY CONSCRIPTION OF SPECIFIED GROUP
OF YOUNG WOMEN. END SUMMARY./

2. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS REPORTS FROM ZAIRIAN CITIZENS
THAT FAZ IS IN PROCESS OF ROUNDING UP AND IMPRESSING INTO SERVICE
YOUNG CIVILIANS. TYPICAL REPORT IS THAT FAZ TROUPS GATHER YOUNG
MEN OFF STREETS AND OUT OF HOMES AT NIGHT, TAKING THEM TO LOCAL
OFFICE OF GENDARMERY WHERE THEY ARE REQUIRED TO PRESENT PROOF OF
EMPLOYMENT. THE UNEMPLOYED ARE FORCED INTO MILITARY SERVICE.
EXCEPTION SEEMS TO BE MADE FOR FATHERS WITH FOUR OR MORE CHILDREN.
RESULT IS THAT MANY YOUNG MEN IN VILLAGES HAVE FLED TO THE FORESTS
AND YOUNG MEN IN CITY ARE HIDING AWAY FROM HOME AT NIGHT.

3. OFFICIAL ZAIRIAN NEWSAGENCY ANNOUNCED TODAY PUBLIC LAW
75-027, SPECIFYING THAT ALL FEMALES WHO FAILED TO PASS FINAL
SECONDARY SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 74-75 MUST REPORT
WITHIN 30 DAYS TO OFFICES OF NATIONAL GENDARMERY FOR CONSCRIPTION
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PAGE 02 KINSHA 08279 121731Z

INTO FAZ. EDITORIAL IN AZAP NOTED THAT IN TIME OF WORLDWIDE

ECONOMIC HARDSHIP AND LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT, FAZ PROMISES BRIGHT FUTURE TO YOUNG CONSCRIPTS.

4. AZAP ALSO REPORTED MEETING OF LOCAL LEADERS OF JMPR IN KINSHASA. ONE OF SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WAS NEED TO RECRUIT 1200 MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TO MEET FAZ LEVY UPON JMPR/KINSHASA OF 2000 RECRUITS.

5. COMMENT. THROUGHOUT SUMMER, FAZ ANNOUNCED PUBLIC COMPETITION FOR PLACES IN MILITARY SERVICES. ACCORDING TO FIGURES PUBLISHED IN PRESS, APPROXIMATELY 1400 SOLDIERS WERE RECRUITED. HOWEVER, IN SPEECH AT KITONA, AUGUST 14, MOBUTU STATED THAT 12,000 NEW RECRUITS WOULD FILL SLOTS IN DIVISIONS TO BE TRAINED BY NORTH KOREANS. ACCORDING TO QUALIFIED MILITARY SOURCES AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY, APPROXIMATELY 5000 RECRUITS WERE THEN PRESENT AT KITONA. WALKER

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